

of military service and the sacrifice of men and women who made this country free. I have listened to the educators and students share their dreams and aspirations for the future. And I have learned from citizens who speak from their hearts about our moral obligation to help the poor, the homeless, and destitute. But, possibly, louder than anyone, I have heard from the silent majority; those who never wave banners, or hold protest rallies, but faithfully take their privilege to vote seriously and always find their ways to the polls. These expressions of pride, deep commitment to principles, and faith in God and Country tell about the greatness of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have incorporated all of these important ideals in this song I wrote several years ago about my love for this Country. Tomorrow is the Fourth of July, a day that has a very special meaning to me, the Nation, and all the Members of this body. I hope we can all enjoy this song and I am honored to have this opportunity to put it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

*"That's What America Means to Me"*

Verse

A place where you can speak your mind and firmly disagree.

If you believe in what you say just say what you believe.

Where you can choose to work and live or where you want to pray.

The Land of opportunity; you can do it your own way.

Chorus

That's what America means to me

Where dreams come true;

It's up to you to be what you want to be.

Though silent your voice will be heard

That's what America means to me.

Verse

Your rights are guaranteed; they're written down in history.

We help the poor and weary; we feed the hungry.

Protecting our honor, defend it we must.

We still do pledge allegiance and still in God We Trust.

#### RESEARCH DEBATE DESERVES OUR ATTENTION

### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, John Kass, a columnist with the Chicago Tribune has written another important article on a sensitive subject, fetal research. I urge my colleagues to read it carefully.

[From the Chicago Tribune, July 1, 1999]

RESEARCH DEBATE TACKLES NEW WORLD SOME DARE NOT BRAVE

(By John Kass)

A discussion begins in Washington on Thursday. It's not about sex or money. It's not about scandals or interest rates or war. So it might not get the media coverage it deserves.

But it could be the most important debate of our generation. It will determine whether we're going to make it easy on ourselves to make a bargain with science and the future.

Depending on how it comes out and what we settle for, it will determine what kind of human beings we will become, as science moves quicker than our ability to understand its consequences, in areas from human cloning to fetal stem cell research.

And it will answer a question:

Is it right to take human beings and process them as resources to benefit other human beings?

About 100 doctors and scientists have signed a statement from the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity to oppose something horrible—embryonic and fetal stem cell research, which uses aborted children and viable fertilized embryos to develop cures for some diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

At the news conference, the doctors are being joined by U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, the joined by U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, the Republican from Kansas, who is expected to lead a fight against changes in federal policy that now allows the research.

The National Institutes of Health already supports and finances the research using fetuses. Now, the NIH wants to use embryos too.

Among those opposing the research is former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

Some scientists argue that they need the human "material," as they call it, to study how the mind works, in order to attack the horrible diseases.

But doctors who have signed the document say that's wrong. Stem cell research on brain diseases is in its early stages, and there are other means to grow the cells to attack brain diseases.

Sen. Brownback said it is important to realize that the ethical line of using human life for stem cell research need not be crossed.

"For those who say there are moral and ethical issues on the other side, who say we have the moral responsibility to solve diseases like Parkinson's, I say, look at the other possibilities that we have," Brownback said Wednesday in an interview.

"We don't have to give up on solving Parkinson's. We have other ways of doing it. And that seems to be a prudent way to proceed," he said. "It's almost every week that another study comes out about advances in adult stem cell research. Let's not get into the situation where you go into all these legal and ethical issues—you'd have enormous ethical and moral issues here, and you shouldn't jump into it."

The debate over the use of fetal brain tissue in experiments was touched on in this space Monday. And I could hear the angry howling.

I'm not opposing science, or research, or organ donation, or any other reasonable practice. Organ donors offer their consent to have their bodies used by science.

But aborted children don't have that opportunity. They're not asked to give their consent. And they are used in stem cell research to help adults fight brain diseases.

Fifty years ago, the Nuremberg war crimes trials led the world to promise never to use human life in scientific experiments without consent. But now we're changing our minds, in order to win a scientific benefit.

And we cannot make a political deal on this issue without publicly and fully discussing the consequences of such selfish thinking.

Some people argue that to oppose this research is to condemn people with Parkinson's to death.

U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) thinks so. Though we disagree on this issue, he should be heard too.

"I think this is valuable research," Durbin said. "We have to set up safeguards that will keep it from becoming commercialized. The important thing about these (fetal) neural cells is that they may be able to help in cases that we can do nothing about now, conditions like that which keep Christopher Reeve in a wheelchair."

But there are other ways to obtain stem cells, according to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity. And even if there weren't other ways, using human babies and embryos should not be allowed.

Stem cells can be obtained from the living human nerve tissues of consenting adults and from adult cadavers, according to researchers. Like the fetal stem cell research, all of this is experimental.

Here's one reason why the fetuses and embryos are used. It's easier. They're available.

And that's the problem.

Because it is easy, and because there is promise in the research, we might be willing—through small steps we don't even notice at the time—to barter something away. Our humanity.

#### WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS—YET AGAIN

### HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, can you believe that the Clinton-Gore Administration may be working with the United Nations to override a decision by the sovereign, duly-elected government of Australia regarding an internal land-use issue in that country?

On July 12th the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) will meet in Paris, France for the purpose of stopping the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine near the Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory of Australia. Mine opponents were unable to persuade the Australian people and their government to stop the mine, so they have appealed to the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of the United Nations. Since Kakadu National Park is a U.N. World Heritage Site, environmental and anti-nuclear activists want the WHC to have Kakadu declared "In Danger," thus making mine construction very difficult.

The United States is a Member of the 21 nation World Heritage Committee, and the Clinton Administration is being lobbied by U.S. environmental and anti-nuclear activists to oppose Australia and vote in favor of the "In Danger" designation. The important issue here is protection of the rights of people in the democratic process of a sovereign nation from interference by international bureaucrats with no accountability whatsoever. The Jabiluka mine decision fundamentally affects citizens of Australia and a global organization should not be ceded that role and its associated powers to in which affected Australians have no representation. If the United States does not oppose this interference of the WHC in Australia's internal affairs, then we will hardly be